THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the flights during phase II (return journey) of Haj operations were delayed due to various reasons. Some of them are as under:—

(i) The Charter Operator could not sustain the schedule due to an initial engineering snag;

(ii) Extreme congestion conditions at the Haj Terminal at Jeddah.

(iii) The directive of Saudi Authorities to use the Haj Terminal also for the departure of scheduled flights.

(iv) Only four counters were being allocated to Air India and that too intermittently for about two hours at a time.

(v) The complete contingent of support staff from India could not be put in position in time because of the delay in the issuance of visa by the Saudi Authorities.

(vi) A majority of Haj passengers report at the check-in counter with excess baggage which not only contributes to the congestion but also slows down the entire process of checking-in the passengers.

Violation of Deputation Rules in AAI

4577. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of officers/officials are being taken on deputation in Airports Authority of India during January 1999 onwards from Government/PSUs, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether these posts are filled against the sanctioned post as per R and P rules for such posts;

(c) whether these posts are being filled as per the Government policy on deputation from Government to PSUs; and

(d) if these deputations are not as per Government policy what action Government have taken against such violations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Airports Authority of India(AAI) has taken only nine people on deputation from Government/PSUs

against sanctioned posts as per rules in the Vigilance, Personnel and Information Technology sections.

Fund for Revival of AI

4578. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India needs 500 crore rupees for its revival immediately;

(b) if so, for what purpose and how Air India proposes to use that amount to revive itself; and

(c) how the Ministry proposes to raise this required fund?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Disinvestment Commission in its VIII Report has recommended restructuring/disinvestment in Air India. The Commission has inter-alia recommended infusion of Government equity of Rs. 1000 crores. The recommendations of the Commission are under consideration of the Government.

International Status to Airports

4579. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of Civil Aviation be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3217 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th April, 2000 and state whether Government will give permission to start new flights by foreign airlines from such airports including Cochin Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Foreign airlines can seek access to the airports recently declared as international airports including Cochin for operation of their flights, subject to formal exchange of air traffic rights.

Recruitment of Managers in AAI

4580. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of candidates appeared in the written test held for the posts of Managers in the Airports Authority of India recently;

(b) the number of posts for which applications were invited;